

ing testimony to the truth of these reflections. Selected by large majorities, both in the Republican Senate and the Democratic House, the bulk of both parties willingly submitted their conflicting claims to its arbitrament. Both individually and collectively, its members were charged with a solemn and important duty. It was for them, after patiently sifting evidence and listening to arguments in every contested case, to decide in effect which candidate ought to be the next President of the United States. They were to satisfy the national mind, to disarm suspicion, to allay excitement, and to leave open no loop-hole for clamorous discontent. And yet, notwithstanding the deep sense of the responsibility which rested upon them, they separated into party sections as readily and as naturally as those who selected them divide in either House of Congress. President Grant had expressed an earnest desire that all matters in dispute should be sifted to the bottom, so that whoever were finally adjudged to be the legally elected President, might be inaugurated without murmur or objection. Yet, although all the evidence was laid before them in each disputed case, by a strictly party vote of eight to seven, the members refused to investigate the alleged frauds, or 'go behind' the Governor's certificates. There is no reason to insinuate that the members on either side were consciously influenced by an improper bias; it would be rash and ungenerous, at all events, to do so. Still nothing can be clearer than the fact that they were thus influenced, and that party spirit, in spite of all the potent motives which contended with it, was strong enough to carry away reason and conscience captive. That Mr. Tilden has been deprived of the electoral votes of Florida and Louisiana by barefaced and systematic fraud, stands in no need of proof, for the evidence of it is on record. The people of the United States will deserve the admiration of all men, if the patient endurance they have exhibited during the past four months is maintained to the end. It is our belief that it will be, and that, in spite of some natural soreness and just indignation, they will prove themselves worthy of the high place they occupy

amongst the free commonwealths of the world.

The Imperial Parliament was opened on the 8th ult., by Her Majesty in person. The speech, read by the Lord Chancellor, much resembled, though of course pitched in a higher tone, another delivered at Ottawa on the same day. There was little information communicated, and very few tasks prescribed for Parliament to accomplish. The Earl of Beaconsfield's mundane apotheosis was publicly proclaimed by his reception into the British Olympus. The tantalizing fragments of debate reported by cable only serve to whet the appetite. The failure of the Conference which assembled at Constantinople appears to have taken the Powers by surprise. It had been anticipated that the chief obstacle to its success would arise from the pertinacious determination of Russia to urge matters to an extremity; and this seems to have weighed with Lord Salisbury so far as to induce him to pay marked attention to Gen. Ignatieff. In the end, after all the Powers had agreed upon a basis of settlement, the Porte proved obstinate and intractable. The embassies and delegates withdrew, and the last effort failed. What is to be the opening scene in the next act of the drama? or is there to be another act at all, without the usual melodramatic 'interval of ten years'? The spring will probably disclose the actual purpose of the Czar, concerning which many speculations are rife, and we have yet to learn the true significance of Midhat Pasha's dismissal. Two things are certain: First, that the new Turkish constitution is a mockery and a delusion, as all so-called representative contrivances must be, under which a constituency does not elect its representatives, but is told, as the *Daily News* asserts, that three boys and a Pasha have been appointed to speak and vote for it; and secondly, that whilst England will not coerce Turkey, she will not draw sword to protect her. Mr. Gathorne Hardy assured Mr. Gladstone of this, and it is the best justification possible of the ex-Premier's popular agitation.

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